

# **Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd**

Minutes of board meeting of 22 August 2007, ACQUUM Restaurant, 364 Victoria Street, North Melbourne.

Present: Niel Black, Dianne Batterham , Graeme Charles, Tony O'Shea (Chairman) and David Griffiths (Secretary)  
Apology: David Dinning,

## **1. Minutes**

That the minutes of the meeting of 19 July 2007 be signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the meeting. CARRIED

## **2. IAS**

It was noted that the New Zealand Co-operative Association was still pursuing this issue and that it was an issue of continuing interest for CFV.

## **3. Letter to Terang and Warrnambool Co-operatives**

It was noted that there had been no responses received to the letters as of 21 August 2007.

There was a brief discussion of the possibility of UK co-operaor Bob Burlton coming to Australia as a consultant if the co-operatives were interested. Graeme Charles said that he hoped to meet with Burlton in the UK next week.

Bob Burlton was appointed Chief Executive of Oxford & Swindon Co-operative Society in 1987, at a time when the Society was experiencing severe difficulties. Following the successful turnaround of the Society it absorbed Gloucester & Severnside Society in October 1991, since when the merged society has gone from strength to strength.

He is a director of The Co-operative Group (CWS) since 1992 and is also chairman of the Co-operative Group, the representative body of retail consumer co-operative societies in the UK, and is a member of the Board of the Co-operative College. He was also elected a director of The Co-operative Bank plc in 1993. Bob was elected as President of Congress, the annual conference of the UK consumer movement, for 1999 and delivered a widely acclaimed presidential address. He was a leading member of the Corporate Governance working party that was responsible for the production of the Corporate Governance Code of Best Practice that was introduced in 1994. In April 2002, Bob was also appointed Chair of the CRTG Strategy Group.

Bob is also one of twelve members of the Co-operative Commission, that was established with the support of the Prime Minister, Tony Blair. Its report was published in February 2001

Prior to rejoining the Co-op in 1987, he was a management consultant with Coopers & Lybrand, working with many of the UK's leading retailers. Earlier experience includes positions with Honeywell Computers, RHM Foods and the former London Co-operative Society.

He is the holder of an honours degree in mathematics and the Certified Diploma in Accounting and Finance.

. Source: [http://www.cooonline.coop/about\\_facts\\_whois.html#burlton](http://www.cooonline.coop/about_facts_whois.html#burlton)

#### **4. Audit Exemption**

The letter dated 10 August 2007 from Melanie Saba, Assistant Registrar, Co-operatives, was noted. It was also noted that Nigel Hill, of Australegal, had provided free advise at the request of Graeme Charles.

#### **5.Co-operative Council of Australia**

It was noted that the meeting was held on 23 July 2007 and that a report was emailed or mailed to directors on 25 July 2007 and that a letter from Linda Burney, NSW Minister for Consumer Affairs, had also been circulated to directors.

#### **6.australia.coop**

It was noted that visitor numbers were still increasing qand the paper on Gossip and australia.coop was tabled.

#### **7. Merger**

Graeme Charles reported on a brief without prejudice discussion with Helen McCall on a merger of the CFNSW and CFV.

That the Chairman write to the Chairman of the CFNSW to engage in discussion on this possibility. CARRIED

#### **8. Financial Statements**

It was noted that the current balance was \$7,730 that future income from SEHC was up to \$2000 and that payments totalling \$19,500 were due from the Capricorn Society and the CFNSW.

It was noted that CFV income from the Capricorn and CFNSW workshops would be between \$4800 and \$7500 and that Graeme would clarify this with the Co-operative College.

That a letter and invoice be forwarded to the Chairman of Murray Goulburn regarding payment of \$ 5000 that was outstanding from the Murray Goulburn Co-operative Identity Workshop. CARRIED

It was noted that the bill for directors and officers liability was \$1913 – less than last year.

That the statement of receipts and payments for the year ended 30 June 2007 be accepted and forwarded to the auditor. CARRIED

Tony O'Shea reported that he would be discussing the audit with the Avoca auditor and Graeme Charles reported that the cost of the audit for the CFNSW was about \$1000.

## **9. Co-operative Education**

It was noted that Capricorn Society was discussing with Chris Cooper the possibility of a further Co-operative Identity Workshop in November 2007.

It was also noted that the retail co-operative workshop would now be in April 2008 and that Helen McCall was actively pursuing NSW Government funds and sponsorship.

Graeme Charles reported that Murray Goulburn had proposed that all the regional workshops funded by the Gardiner Foundation would be organised in February 2008. He said that it would be a precis of the Co-operative Identity Workshop and the proposed speakers would be the Chairman of MG, himself and Brad Plunkett from WA. Gary Lewis had been approached but he was unavailable.

## **10. Member Equality**

There was a brief discussion at the board meeting on 19 July 2007 on the need for co-operatives to treat all members equally.

The draft paper prepared by the Secretary was noted.

## **11. AGM**

It was noted that the retiring directors for the AGM were D. Batterham, N. Black and Tony O'Shea.

There was a brief discussion on resolutions for the AGM.

That Directors do not receive any remuneration as Directors for the 2007/08 financial year. CARRIED

That the following membership annual subscription levels for the financial year 2007/08 be approved:

<b>Annual Turnover \$</b>	<b>Annual Subscription \$</b>
0 -100,000	\$165
101,000-500,000	\$ 275
500,001-1 million	\$ 385
1-2 million	\$ 550
2-3 million	\$ 825
3-4 million	\$1100
4-5 million	\$ 1375
5-6 million	\$ 1650
6-7.5 million	\$ 1925
7.5 – 10 million	\$ 2200
10 – 50 million	\$ 2750
50-100 million	\$ 3300
100 million plus	\$ 4675

CARRIED

## **12. Co-operative Health**

Diane Batterham reported that a Canberra Doctors Co-operative had been formed and received funding of \$500,000.

There was a brief discussion on a funding submission for a website, start-up manual, workshop and feasibility study.

Graeme Charles reported that he had the necessary features of a funding submission with Michael White, CEO, Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare.

That the letter and proposal to the Minister for Community Development be approved. CARRIED

## **13. Legal Advise**

It was agreed that Graeme Charles and Tony O'Shea would discuss with Nigel Hill, of Australegal, his availability as a legal advisor with the service being provided to members on the basis of an initial free telephone consultation before any costs were incurred.

Graeme Charles reported that GHI was using Nigel Hill.

## **14. Dr. Joseph Toscano**

Graeme Charles suggested that Dr Toscano be invited to attend a future board meeting and the board agreed to issue an invitation.

Dr Joseph Toscano (Born 1952) is a medical practitioner, a broadcaster and an anarchist. He has presented the long running Anarchist World this week

program on 3CR since 1977. A weekly newsletter, the Anarchist Age Weekly Review has been compiled by Joe Toscano since 1991 and distributed around the world.

It was agreed that Dr Toscano would be invited to attend a future board meeting.

**Next Meeting:** 10: 30. am, 29 November 2007, Urban Camp Melbourne Co-operative, Brens Drive, Parkville.

Prepared by David Griffiths: 23 August 2007  
Approved by Tony O'Shea: 23 August 2007  
Emailed or faxed to directors: 23 August 2007  
Snail mailed to directors: 24 August 2007

# **Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd**

## **2007 Schedule of Board and AGM meetings**

### **Board**

Start time: 10:30am

Venue: Substitution Pty Ltd, 1/484 William Street, North Melbourne

15 March 2007

17 May 2007

19 July 2007

22 August 2007

29 November 2007

### **AGM**

29 November 2007

Start time: 12:00 Midday

Venue: Urban Camp Melbourne Co-operative, Brens Drive, Parkville